

inside Boulder

The City of Boulder's Community Newsletter

■ Message from the mayor

I am proud to introduce you to the first edition of Inside Boulder, the city of Boulder's first widely-distributed community newsletter. Here, we hope you will find information about City Council initiatives, city programs and ways for you to get involved in your local government and our community. The newsletter will be published quarterly and will be delivered to you by the Camera, either in your Sunday newspaper or by mail. We'd appreciate your input, so be sure to share your feedback with us at insideboulder@bouldercolorado.gov. Thank you! - Boulder Mayor, Shaun McGrath

■ Boulder welcomes new city manager

The city of Boulder will have its first ever female city manager in its 90 year history! Jane Brautigam will serve as Boulder's 19th city manager beginning Oct. 13.

Brautigam replaces Frank Bruno who took the vice chancellor for administration position with the University of Colorado-Boulder in June. Deputy City Manager Stephanie Grainger has been the interim city manager since Bruno left and will return to her deputy position when Brautigam begins her post with the city. Paul Fetherston is the city's other deputy city manager.

Brautigam has been the city manager for Dublin, Ohio since 2002. Previously she worked as the city manager and city attorney for Loveland, Colo.; the city attorney and assistant city attorney for Greenwood Village, Colo.; and as an assistant county attorney for Boulder County.

"Colorado has been my home for most of my career and leaving six years ago for a career opportunity in the Midwest was bittersweet," said Brautigam. "My children were both CU students, giving me many excuses to visit Colorado, especially Boulder. When I heard that Frank Bruno had taken a new position at CU, the opportunity to live and work in this amazing community was one I could not resist. To me, serving the residents of Boulder is an opportunity to lead positive change, a chance to set the standard

for excellence in local government and community sustainability. It is an incredible honor to serve as the city manager of this vibrant community."

Brautigam has a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a bachelor's degree in history from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

"City Council was unanimous in its decision to offer the position to Jane," said Boulder Mayor Shaun McGrath. "We were very impressed with her wealth of experience. During the interview process, she presented council with excellent ideas on how we can progress on meeting our goals for the climate action plan. We look forward to working with her."

The city manager manages the day-to-day business of the city government; sets strategic direction to achieve the city's community sustainability goals; implements council determined policies; coordinates community issues between departments; and supervises the work of departments.



Photo Credit: City of Dublin

Photo Credit: Ann Duncan

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■ What's on the Nov. 4 ballot?

The Boulder City Council voted on Aug. 5 and 19 to place the following items on the November ballot:

For more information, go to www.bouldercolorado.gov and click on "Elections."

- **Ballot Issue No. 201:** City retention of property tax funds
- **Ballot Issue No. 202:** Sales and use tax extension
- **Ballot Question No. 2A:** City council compensation
- **Ballot Question No. 2B:** City council executive sessions
- **Ballot Question No. 2C:** Amendment of recall election procedures
- **Ballot Question No. 2D:** Permit city lease up to forty years
- **Ballot Question No. 2E:** Qualifications for appointment to city commissions



inside city directory

City Attorney's Office • 303-441-3020
City Attorney: Jerry Gordon

City Manager's Office • 303-441-3090
City Manager (Interim): Stephanie Grainger

Channel 8 • 303-441-4395
Director: Don Chapman

Communication • 303-441-3090
Manager: Mary Huron Hunter

**Downtown & University Hill Management
Division & Parking Services** • 303-413-7300
Director: Molly Winter

Business Assistance/Economic Vitality
303-441-3287
Business Liaison: Liz Hanson

Emergency Management (city & county)
303-441-3390
Director: Jerry Tate

Environmental Affairs • 303-441-4900
Manager: Jonathan Koehn

Finance • 303-441-3040
Director: Bob Eichen

Fire • 303-441-3350
Fire Chief: Larry Donner

Housing & Human Services • 303-441-3157
Acting Director: Karen Rahn

Human Resources • 303-441-3070
Director: Eileen Gomez

Information Technology • 303-441-3080
Director: Don Ingle

Library & The Arts • 303-441-3100
Director: Tony Tallent

Municipal Court • 303-441-1843
Municipal Judge: Linda Cooke

Open Space & Mountain Parks • 303-441-3440
Director: Michael Patton

Parks & Recreation • 303-413-7200
Director: Jan Geden

Planning • 303-441-1880
Director (Acting): Ruth McHeyser

Police • 303-441-3310
Police Chief: Mark Beckner

Public Works • 303-441-3200
Executive Director: Maureen Rait

Senior Services • 303-441-4150
Director: John Riggle



■ INSIDE BOULDER

Published quarterly by the city of Boulder. Editor: Christina Savage, city community outreach specialist.

To receive a copy by mail or to request an electronic version only, e-mail insideboulder@bouldercolorado.gov or call 303-441-4205. www.bouldercolorado.gov

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■ Important Numbers:

General Info: 303-441-3388

Emergency: 911

Police Dispatch for Non-Emergency: 303-441-3333

Office of Human Rights: 303-441-3141

Community Mediation Program: 303-441-4364

Animal Control: 303-442-4030

■ Boards and Commissions

The city's 20 boards and commissions study information and make recommendations to City Council on issues within the board's area of expertise. Recruitment for annual board appointments begins in January. For more information: www.bouldercolorado.gov, click on "Boards and Commissions."

- Arts Commission
- Beverages Licensing Authority
- Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Boulder Community Media Board of Directors
- Boulder Urban Renewal Authority
- Chautauqua Association
- Downtown Design Advisory Board
- Downtown Management Commission
- Environmental Advisory Board
- Housing Authority
- Human Relations Commission
- Landmarks Board
- Library Commission
- Open Space Board of Trustees
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Board
- Transportation Advisory Board
- University Hill Commercial Area Management Commission
- Water Resources Advisory Board
- Youth Opportunities Advisory Board

■ City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 1777 Broadway, in Council Chambers (second floor).

Meetings are aired live on Channel 8 and re-broadcast Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 11 a.m. Tapes are also available for checkout at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1000 Canyon Blvd. In addition, meetings are available online at www.bouldercolorado.gov/channel8.

Study sessions are open to the public and are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, please call 303-441-3002 or visit www.bouldercolorado.gov and click on "calendar".

■ On the Web:

For complete listings of city departments, projects and programs, go to www.bouldercolorado.gov and click on "City A-Z."

■ Boulder City Council

CONTACTING CITY COUNCIL Mail letters to: Office of the City Council, P.O. Box 791, Boulder, CO 80306-0791

Fax letters to: 303-441-4478 • Council office phone: 303-441-3002 • E-mail all council members at once: council@bouldercolorado.gov



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November 2009



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November 2011



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■ Bear safety: Tips for the trails

It was a long, hot summer, but the days will soon be cooling down and the evenings will be crisp and beautiful—the perfect time for a hike! Fall is also a perfect time to brush up on your bear safety skills.

COLORADO'S BEARS Colorado is home to black bears, but they can also be brown or even blonde. Mature males average 275 pounds and females average 175 pounds. Over 90 percent of their natural diet is grasses, berries, fruits, nuts and plants. The remaining 10 percent comes primarily from insects and scavenged carcasses. During your fall hike, please remember that bears are trying to eat 20,000 calories a day to prepare for hibernation—that's over 18,000 more calories recommended for an adult human. When hiking, please remember these tips from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.



Photo Credit: Paul Aiken, Daily Camera

■ Mountain pine beetle: Separating facts from fear

You don't have to go far into Colorado's high country before you see the reddish brown and gray lodgepole pines that have been plagued by the mountain pine beetle. There is no way to ignore the change in the landscape caused by this epidemic at elevations above 8,500 feet and many wonder what will happen near Boulder.

In the past few years, beetle populations have dramatically increased in Boulder County and are killing lodgepole pines at the county's higher elevations. Lodgepole pines are generally found above elevations of 8,500 feet or higher and Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) manages fewer than 50 acres of lodgepole pines in our entire system which is almost entirely under 8,500 feet. The majority of forest types on city land are dominated by ponderosa pines and Douglas fir.

While the same species of beetle that affects lodgepole can also kill ponderosa pine, there is no consensus in the scientific community supporting the theory that the current beetle epidemic will move to ponderosa pines. There is a very complex relation-

PREVENTING AN ENCOUNTER:

Bears will usually smell or hear you and leave the area long before you see them.

- Tracks, bear scat and shredded logs are all signs you are in bear country.
- Be alert at all times and leave your headphones at home. A firm clap or quick shout warns bears that humans are in the area.
- Keep dogs leashed; exploring canines can surprise a bear.
- Watch for temporary wildlife closures or restriction signs along trails.
- Keep children between adults and teach them what to do if they see a bear.
- Double bag food and never leave any trash or leftovers behind.

WHAT IF YOU SEE A BEAR?

- Stand still, stay calm and let the bear identify you and leave. Speak in a normal tone of voice.
- Do not approach the bear or offer it food.
- Do not run or try to climb a tree.
- If you see bear cubs, leave the area immediately.

IF THE BEAR DOESN'T LEAVE:

- A bear standing up is trying to identify what you are by getting a better look and smell. Don't be alarmed and don't run!
- Wave your arms slowly overhead and talk calmly. If the bear huffs, pops its jaws or stomps a paw, it wants you to give it space.
- Step off the trail to the downhill side, keep looking at the bear and slowly back away until the bear is out of sight.

IF THE BEAR APPROACHES:

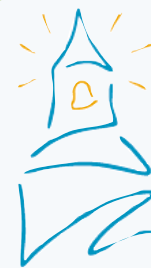
- Stand your ground. Yell or throw small rocks in the direction of the bear.
- If you're attacked, don't play dead. Fight back with anything available. People have successfully defended themselves with pen knives, trekking poles and even bare hands.

For more information on black bears and recommendations for fall hikes, visit www.osmp.org. For more information on bear safety, visit the Colorado Division of Wildlife Web site at <http://wildlife.state.co.us>.

ship between beetles, weather, forest conditions and tree chemistry that makes it impossible to predict whether there will be a large-scale move from lodgepole to ponderosa pines.

Preventively spraying trees can be an effective way to control beetle attacks, but it is practical only on a small scale. As part of its Forest Ecosystem Management Plan, OSMP has developed forest treatments focused on decreasing tree densities and increasing forest health. OSMP thins about 100 to 150 acres of ponderosa pine forest each year in the forests around Boulder. In the last five years and in the coming few years, thinning on OSMP lands will be focused on low elevation ponderosa trees that have unhealthy conditions. These are the areas in the mountain backdrop that are the most susceptible to beetle attacks.

If beetles reach higher levels in the low elevation ponderosa forests near the city of Boulder, we can probably expect a patchy mosaic of mortality, rather than the huge areas of dead trees on the western slope of Colorado. **Information:** www.osmp.org



Lights On Afterschool!

inside housing & human services

■ City and school district to hold *Lights On Afterschool* rally and celebration

7,500 rallies nationwide aim to make after-school programs available to all

The city of Boulder and the Boulder Valley School District will sponsor a "Lights On Afterschool" rally and celebration from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2, on the 1300 block of the Pearl Street Mall. The rally, in support of after-school programs, will be one of more than 7,500 events around the nation in October, marking the ninth annual Lights On Afterschool celebration, organized by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization that aims to raise awareness about the importance of after-school programs.

Speakers in Boulder will call for expanding after-school opportunities so that every child who needs a program has access to one and will discuss the harm that results from budget cuts. School children of all ages will showcase what they have learned in after-school programs with a variety of performances, and after-school class providers will be available to discuss their programs. Hundreds of parents, supporters and community members are expected to attend.

The event will highlight three of the significant contributions that after-school programs make to Boulder Valley—keeping kids safe and healthy; inspiring them to learn; and relieving working parents of worries about their children's activities during the afternoon hours. Evidence suggests a correlation between frequent attendance in after-school activities and positive outcomes, including an increase in academic achievement, school attendance, time spent on homework, improved effort in school, and better student behavior.

For more information, contact Kathryn Coleman, city of Boulder Children, Youth and Families Division, at 303-441-3344.



Photo Credit: Zahn Shaffer



Photo Credit: Darcy Kiefel

■ City well-prepared for changing transportation needs

In a time of rising gas prices, the city of Boulder is well-prepared to accommodate changing transportation needs. In its 20 years of planning, Boulder has created a multitude of programs that offer options to the single occupancy vehicle.

Since 1989, GO Boulder, a department that strives to offer sustainable transportation, has worked in partnership with the community to make it easier to get around. In fact, the number of passengers served by Boulder's local transit services has increased by

214 percent since 1990.

Today, Boulder has award-winning transit services and world-renowned bike and pedestrian facilities. Many businesses and organizations, including the city, offer options such as teleworking, alternative work schedules, car/van-pooling, pool bike and Eco Pass programs.

The road leading to Boulder's transportation future is less traveled but not uncharted. In the late 1980s, City Council began looking closer at transportation policy and its impacts on Boulder's budget, character and quality of life. This vision resulted in the city's Transportation Master Plan which, through its guiding principles, has led to many improvements (see box below).

In the future, the city is considering making "Velib" style bike rentals available, recently made popular in Paris, France, and car-free events that would open streets solely to pedestrians.

As Boulder's Transportation Director Tracy Winfree says, "There is no silver bullet, but there may be a golden menu. Patience, persistence, coordination and ongoing commitment are essential to building that effective menu of travel choices for any community over time."

For maps and more information on Boulder's transportation options, visit www.GOBoulder.net.

Improvements

- An expanded bus system with many routes arriving every 15 minutes or less during peak hours.
- An average of 9 million passengers riding transit in Boulder every year; increasing at a rate twice that of the Denver metro region.
- Business, neighborhood and student Eco Pass programs that make 70,000 bus passes available.
- Bikeways spanning 300 miles.
- Seventy-four bike and pedestrian underpasses offering uninterrupted travel.
- Dedicated bicycle facilities on 95 percent of major streets.

- Bikeways given same priority as roadways in maintenance and snow removal.
- The transformation of an auto-dominated 28th Street into a "complete street" with upgrades for pedestrians, bikes and transit.
- An innovative bike routing Web site www.GOBikeBoulder.net
- A volunteer network of nearly 500 employee transportation coordinators at local businesses.
- Boulder East, a transportation management organization that advocates for the transportation needs of east Boulder employees, employers and residents.

■ Water budget adjustments due at year's end to receive credit

The city of Boulder's Public Works Department has changed the way water budgets are calculated for commercial/industrial and multifamily account types. The utility billing system will be updated with these changes later this fall.

However, all approved water budget adjustments will be retroactive to June 2008 utility bills. This means that customers who get approved for more water in their budgets will not see a change in their bills until the system change is implemented. At that point, customers will receive a credit on their account reflecting the retroactive adjustment.

To receive retroactive credit, customers will need to apply for their water budget adjustment prior to

Jan. 1, 2009. This refund does not apply to single-family or irrigation-only accounts.

Recent changes to water budget calculations include:

- Multifamily customers (i.e. apartments, condos, town homes) can apply to have their water budget adjusted for living units that have more than two bedrooms (five bedrooms maximum).
- Commercial/industrial/institutional (CII) customers can choose from four water budget options.

To request an adjustment to your water budget, visit www.boulderwater.net and click on the "Water Budgets" link or contact the Utility Billing Office at 303-441-3260.

■ Did you know?

- Boulder has over 300 miles of bikeways.
- Eco Pass holders are eligible to receive discounts at local merchants. Visit www.ecopassextra.net for more information.
- Crosswalk rules for bikers and pedestrians are available at: www.goboulder.net, click on "walk."



■ Pedestrians: Look both ways!

The city reminds people that while it is a state law that motor vehicles yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk, it is important for those pedestrians to be aware of oncoming traffic and to wait for motorists to come to a complete stop before entering the street. With schools back in session, there are now many additional people using city crosswalks to move from one side of the street to the other.

Here are some tips to make your journey across the street a safe one:

- State law requires that pedestrians give vehicles the opportunity to stop before entering a crosswalk.
- Cyclists are considered pedestrians while in a crosswalk as long as they enter the street at a pedestrian speed (on or off their bikes).
- Vehicles are required to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk that is treated with flashing yellow crosswalk signs, just as they would for any other crosswalk. The flashing yellow lights are just another way to catch motorists' attention to the possibility of a pedestrian. Once the pedestrian has cleared the area of the crosswalk in front of the vehicle, the motorist may proceed, even if the lights are still flashing.

If you have had a close call with a bicycle, pedestrian or a motorist, the city wants to know. Use the city's online "Close Call Form" to let us know about an "almost accident," "near miss" or "close call." Visit www.goboulder.net to access this form and to learn more about how motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians can all "Share the Road" safely in Boulder.

■ Introducing the new Library & Arts Director Tony Tallent

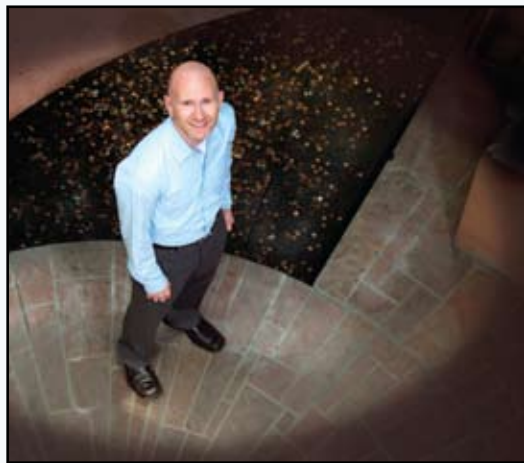


Photo Credit: Sherri O'Hara

The Boulder Public Library (BPL) is proud to announce its new library and arts director, Tony Tallent.

Having moved here recently from Charlotte, N.C. where he was the director of the youth and outreach services division for the public library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (PLCMC), Tallent has embraced living in Boulder and is brimming with ideas to maximize the positive impact the library has in this community.

"I'm thrilled to continue my library career in beautiful and vital Boulder," said Tallent. "I want to give Boulderites many more reasons to love their library."

BPL recently launched a library facility sustainability study that incorporates the ideas of a variety of community members. As a result, BPL staff will be working toward making library locations more welcoming, easier to use and more integrated. In addition, Tallent has plans to launch a more visually appealing and easier to navigate BPL Web site www.boulderlibrary.org that will roll out in 2009.

Tallent has been involved with libraries most of his life. At age 16, in a small town in the North Carolina mountains, he worked a part-time job at the local library as a shelver. Within a month, his eagerness and interest in the library were recognized, and he began coordinating exhibits and programs.

"I realized that the library was the crossroads for the community," said Tallent. "Every segment of this tiny town came to the library. Libraries got into my bloodstream, and I was hooked." Working in libraries through high school and during college, Tallent believes that libraries and the people who work there change people's lives.

Tallent graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and Education from Western Carolina University and then taught English for two years, but wanted to do more with the arts. He started film school, but soon felt he wanted to work in a broader field, so he headed back to libraries. Tallent received his master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina and immediately began working at the Charlotte Public Library system.

Tallent held several positions in Charlotte, but one of his favorite ventures was as project leader for the ImaginOn center, a collaborative project between the PLCMC and the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, a state-of-the-art center dedicated to theater, art, science, technology and storytelling for young people.

Having begun his new position at the end of July, Tallent is learning "the lay of the land" and forming goals, but adheres to a philosophy of the importance of learning and play to renew excitement and challenge in our daily lives, as well as celebrating the uniqueness in each of us, including library staff.

"Sometimes we forget to tell the library's own story. I want to turn the volume up and promote the meaningful, unique and attractive aspects of the BPL," he said. "I believe that we are only limited by imagination and our ability to act on it."

Tallent said he looks forward to interacting with the public in the library and around the city. He'll be sharing his thoughts, discoveries and remarkable happenings at the library each month in BPL's monthly newsletter.

For more information, visit www.boulderlibrary.org and click on "About the Library."



Photo Credit: Laurie Watkins

■ Give the gift of reading: Volunteer for BoulderReads!

Are you looking for a volunteer position that will help change lives of your fellow community members? If you enjoy reading, writing, and helping people, BoulderReads! may be the organization for you.

For 22 years, BoulderReads! has aimed to help adults and children discover the power and joy of reading. BoulderReads! offers free and confidential one-on-one reading and writing tutoring to adults who struggle with reading and writing English.

Each year BoulderReads! serves more than 150 adults and 50 children with the help of more than 200 volunteers. The organization has helped about 3,000 students over the years not only to read and write, but to achieve their dreams.

Students have learned how to read their mail, read to their children, and fill out job applications. They have also exceeded their goals by passing the driver's test, gaining citizenship, passing the GED, earning job promotions, starting a business, and publishing stories and books.

Besides one-on-one tutoring, BoulderReads! also offers services such as tutoring to Boulder County jail inmates, family literacy programs, a Reading Buddies program for children, and conducts GED classes and testing, book clubs, and art and writing workshops. In addition, there are a number of resources available to BoulderReads! students such as a computer lab and over 2,000 easy-to-read books that appeal to adult readers and support their tutors.

In order to serve as a volunteer adult literacy tutor, you must be able to commit to six months minimum, meet regularly with your learner once or twice weekly for one-and-a-half hours at a time, plan for the lessons, be available to meet with your learner at one of six tutoring sites or at a public location, submit a tutor application, complete an interview, and complete the entire 13.5 hour tutor training.

Support for BoulderReads! comes from the city of Boulder, Boulder Public Library Foundation, Boulder County, the Boulder County Jail, Boulder Valley School District, Lafayette Public Library, University of Colorado and from various grants and donations. For more information about volunteering or donating, or if you know someone who could benefit from BoulderReads! call 303-444-5599 or visit www.boulderreads.org.

■ Did you know?

BPL recently began a facilities planning study to identify necessary building upgrades at existing library buildings and implement service improvements consistent with the 2007 library master plan. The first part of the study gathered feedback from the public and the staff through a series of focus groups about improvements or services they'd like the library to consider.

The facilities plan will be completed in early 2009, and a report will be made to the Library Commission and City Council. **For more information,** visit www.boulderlibrary.org and click on "About the Library."

■ Your parking dollars – reinvested!

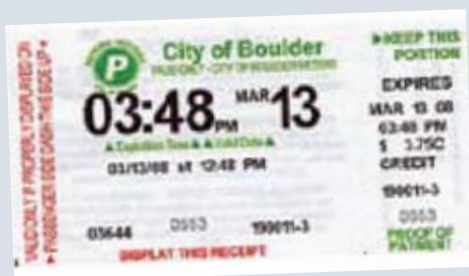
Have you ever wondered where your parking money ends up? You may be surprised to find out that your funds stretch further than you think. In fact, the city of Boulder is one of the nation's only communities that reinvests parking dollars back into the community.

Parking revenues help sponsor events such as the Lights of December Parade, Hill Fest, Munchkin Masquerade, Homecoming, and Bands on the Bricks. Revenue also goes to business district improvements such as the pop jet fountain on Pearl Street, downtown employee Eco Passes, parking operations and maintenance, and new parking technology.

Over the years, the city has made parking more accessible and easy to find downtown. For example, paying for on-street parking is now more convenient, since the pay stations accept both cash and credit cards. In addition, shoppers no longer have to worry about running a couple minutes late—each pay station receipt provides a five minute grace period.

Aside from making vehicle parking accessible, the city also strives to make alternative methods of transportation available by providing Eco Passes to downtown employees and installing additional bike racks. If you're concerned about finding a place to park, keep in mind that if nearby on-street parking is unavailable, the city garages are a convenient alternative. In addition, all five city-owned parking garages are free on Saturdays, Sundays, and city holidays.

Parking ticket expiration reminder



To help you remember when your time expires, simply tear off the end of your parking stub and take it with you.

For more information or to get an interactive parking map, visit www.boulderparking.com or call 303-413-7300.

City parking garages are FREE on Saturdays, Sundays and city holidays.

■ Senior Services adds YogaStretch class to SilverSneakers®



Photo Credit: Karen Morgan

Senior Services and Parks and Recreation are proud to announce the addition of a YogaStretch class to the current SilverSneakers® program lineup. This class debuted in the city's SilverSneakers® Fitness Program, the nation's leading fitness program designed exclusively for older adults.

The SilverSneakers® Fitness Program provides a fitness benefit for managed care Medicare enrolled people. Eligible members—adults ages 65 years or older or Medicare-disabled—receive a basic membership at no charge. Those who do not qualify but are age 60 or over can attend by paying a nominal fee.

SilverSneakers® classes are held at the East Boulder Senior Center, 5660 Sioux Drive. Attendees can show up at the front desk before class and pay or use their exercise class card.

CURRENT CLASS OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

SilverSneakers® - Muscular Strength & Range of Movement - Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a small ball are offered for resistance, and a chair is used for seated or standing support.

SilverSneakers® - Cardio Circuit - Combine fun and fitness to increase your cardiovascular and muscular endurance power with a standing circuit workout. Increase upper body strength using hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a small ball alternated with non-impact aerobic choreography. A chair is offered for support, head to toe stretching, and complete relaxation in a comfortable position.

SilverSneakers® YogaStretch - YogaStretch will move your whole body through a complete series of seated and standing poses. Chair support is offered to safely perform a variety of postures designed to increase flexibility, balance and range of movement. Restorative breathing exercises and final relaxation will promote stress reduction and mental clarity.

Senior Services is a division of the city's Housing and Human Services department. For further information, please call the East Boulder Senior Center at 303-441-4150 or view the Senior Services fall catalog at www.bouldercolorado.gov.

inside finance

■ City's revenue stabilization efforts continue

In 2006, City Council established the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) with the purpose of establishing a long-term, balanced and stable revenue stream for the city of Boulder that accomplishes public priorities, while allowing flexibility to meet the varied and dynamic needs of the municipal corporation in the next 20 years.

The BRC concluded its work at the end of 2007 and presented its report and recommendations to City Council at a Jan. 15 study session. The BRC recommended to council a three-pronged approach to stabilizing revenues and obtaining funding for implementing portions of council-adopted master plans. This includes creating a solution framework comprised of policies, revenue structure changes and increased revenues amounts. The BRC also identified 30 policies to improve Boulder's fiscal climate toward a more stable, efficient, flexible and strategic environment. The committee consisted of community members with a broad and deep understanding of Boulder and those with technical knowledge of local governmental tax policy.

The second phase of the BRC is underway. This phase will delve more deeply into the expenditure side of the city's operations and the implementation of policies and revenue scenarios completed in the first phase work.

For more information, go to www.bouldercolorado.gov, click on "City A-Z" then "Blue Ribbon Commission."

■ Did you know?

The city's Economic Vitality program provides a wide range of business assistance. This includes everything from helping a small business owner who makes handmade jewelry to assisting one of Boulder's largest employers like Ball Aerospace who makes satellites that take pictures of planet Earth.

■ Fall leaf drop-off



Photo Credit: Mary Huron Hunter

Saturdays, Oct. 25 through Nov. 22

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. City of Boulder residents may bring **leaves and pumpkins** only to:

- North Boulder Park parking lot, 8th Street and Dellwood Avenue.
- South Boulder Recreation Center Park, 1360 Gillaspie Drive - south parking lot by Viele Lake.
- Western Disposal Brickyard Site, 5900 Butte Mill Rd. (1/2 mile east of the intersection of 55th and Pearl streets). Follow signs.

No plastic bags, trash, branches, limbs or grass. The leaves will be composted at Western Disposal's facility. People wanting leaves to compost may take as many bags of leaves as they like from the drop-off sites. **Please do not dump leaves outside of program hours and dates. Illegal dumping is expensive and takes away funding for other programs.**

Yard waste (leaves, branches, limbs, and grass) may be taken year round to the city's Yard Waste Drop-off Center, Western Disposal Transfer Station, 5880 Butte Mill Road, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday (Saturday hours are only until 2 p.m. starting Nov. 24 for the winter). Drop-off is free for Boulder residents. There is a charge for commercial customers. **For more information, call 303-444-2037.**

■ Boulder takes on climate change with ClimateSmart program



The city of Boulder's Office of Environmental Affairs is tasked with implementing the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP) which strives for reductions in community greenhouse gas emissions by about 22 percent by the year 2012. In simple terms, that means we all need to use less electricity and natural gas in our buildings, and carpool, bike or bus more than we currently drive. Boulder is a national leader with progressive policies intended to protect the environment, and inspiring other cities through what can be achieved in Boulder is a key motivator for city leaders.

Boulder's marketing and outreach campaign is called ClimateSmart. Awareness of the ClimateSmart brand and programs that began in April 2007 has grown

■ Spring clean-up program

City residents in single-family homes will soon have a more convenient option to dispose of yard waste than waiting for the annual spring clean-up program. Starting in 2009, the spring clean-up and fall leaf drop-off programs will be replaced with the new curbside compost collection. **The new option will allow residents to recycle organic material such as food scraps and yard waste every other week throughout the year.** Also, the program will allow up to three extra bundles of branches or three bags of leaves for those larger materials that do not fit easily in the compost cart.

Even residents without yard waste will be able to participate in this new program. The following materials will also be collected: plant-based food waste (fruit, vegetables, cereals, and grains); non-recyclable paper (paper towels, napkins, tissues, food-soiled cardboard); and compostable products made from plant starches (plates, cups, utensils, and take-out containers). All of the organic materials collected will be processed and turned into high quality useable compost.

Boulder has worked diligently to build one of the best recycling programs in the country and is one of the few cities to initiate citywide collection of food waste for composting. With all of these materials moving from the trash category to the compost cart, residents will be able to reduce their trash volumes, make compost instead of burying waste in the landfill, and move Boulder closer to becoming a zero-waste community.

Free, year-round organic drop-off is still available to city residents at the Yard Waste Drop-off site at the Western Disposal transfer station at 5880 Butte Mill Road.

For more information about upcoming changes, watch for the December issue of "Inside Boulder" or visit www.environmentalaffairs.com.

steadily, and many city businesses and residents have taken advantage of free weatherization services, free or low-cost energy audits, rebates, and grant funds, or have signed up for wind power, put solar panels on their roofs, or started biking to work. ClimateSmart programs are also designed to support market transformation, where demand is created for new products and services that facilitate reduced energy usage. This stimulates the local economy by supplying business to local renewable energy suppliers, energy auditors, home performance contractors, green building and remodeling professionals, and green product retailers.

Also, a new ClimateSmart social networking group allows anybody to join and get plugged in to share ideas and experiences, create events, and inspire other friends and neighbors to join. For more information, visit www.becimatesmart.com/whatAreYouDoing/ or contact Beth Powell at powellb@bouldercolorado.gov or 303-441-1846.

■ As winter approaches, city reminds residents to remove snow

It may not feel like winter is coming any time soon, but as residents of Boulder know, snow often falls in September. In fact, city snow removal crews officially began their "snow season" on Monday, Sept. 15.

In preparation, the city of Boulder reminds residents that city ordinance requires property owners, managers and tenants adjacent to public sidewalks to **clear sidewalks of snow and ice by noon on the day following a snowstorm.** This includes any sidewalk that abuts the property and the portion of the sidewalk that projects across an alley. It is important to remove snow and ice from public walkways because many people in Boulder rely on these paths as their primary routes of travel throughout the year.

Failure to remove snow and ice from sidewalks will initially result in a warning. The warning is a required element of the sidewalk snow removal ordinance and is intended to inform new residents and remind existing residents of their obligation to clear sidewalks of snow and ice prior to the city taking further enforcement action. The city provides only one warning, per infraction, per snow season. Warnings also give those with extenuating circumstances (physical disabilities or elderly persons) a chance to make arrangements for sidewalk snow removal.

A municipal summons can be issued to property owners, managers or tenants for not clearing adjacent sidewalks after a warning has been issued. The fine for a first offense is \$100. Further violations may result in increased fines of up to \$1,000 and mandatory court appearances.

ICEBUSTERS

Senior citizens and persons with physical disabilities who are unable to clear snow from their sidewalks may receive assistance through the city's ICEBUSTERS program. ICEBUSTERS is always in need of volunteers who are willing to help their neighbors on snowy mornings.

For more information on becoming an ICEBUSTERS volunteer, call the city's Housing and Human Services Department at 303-441-3157. For more information on the city snow removal regulations, visit www.bouldercolorado.gov/pwplan and click on "Winter Tips."



Next summer, the Parks and Recreation Department will begin phase one development of the city's largest park. Valmont City Park (VCP), a 132-acre parcel of land located along Valmont Road, east of Airport Drive, will host an exciting array of amenities for all ages.

After an extensive, multi-faceted public input process, parks staff developed a concept plan that was approved by the City Council on July 8. Phase one of the development plan calls for a 45-acre bike park, 18-hole disc golf course, dog park, renovated historic farmhouse, parking, and infrastructure and utility improvements.

The VCP land, originally purchased in the late 1990s, has remained mostly undeveloped due to funding constraints. Revenue from the sale of two parcels of land by the department this spring along with a public-private partnership, will now support the park's phase one development to begin in 2009.

"During our 2006 master plan process, the community expressed a desire for the Parks and Recreation Department to accelerate development of the park," said Perry Brooks, parks planner for VCP. "We incorporated their input and interests into our master plan and found a way to fund the first phase of development."

The department subsequently embarked upon a comprehensive public input process to identify the community's needs and desires for the park. Based on the extensive process that included input from recreation user groups, surveys and public meetings, parks plans were developed, shared and revised over a nine-month process.

"The public input process was extensive and time-con-



Photo Credit: Parks & Recreation

suming, and it was essential for us to incorporate the needs of the community into the plans for the city's largest park," Brooks said. "We reviewed and considered every comment and question to best meet the community's desires."

Plans for phase one of construction are being finalized this fall with construction scheduled to begin in summer 2009. In addition to the basic development, the Parks and Recreation Department has entered into a unique public-private partnership with the Boulder Mountain-bike Alliance (BMA) to help raise additional funds to provide enhanced amenities for the bike park portion of the park. It is hoped that the 45-acre multi-purpose bike park and 18-hole disc golf course could be open for play as early as next fall.

For VCP information and updates, visit www.ValmontCityPark.org.

■ Did you know?

- Parks and Recreation offers more than 700 fitness and recreation classes for children, youth and adults each quarter? Visit www.BoulderParks-Rec.org to register for programs in art, dance, fitness, gymnastics, pilates, sports, swimming, yoga, and more!
- You can choose from three, conveniently- located fitness and recreation centers - offering indoor gyms, pools, the latest cardio and weight-training equipment and daily, drop-in fitness classes - all for just \$6.25 (or less) per visit! **Information:** www.BoulderParks-Rec.org.
- Parks and Recreation maintains more than 80 city parks totaling 2,000+ acres of greenspace, playgrounds and ball fields, including historic Chautauqua Park and the Pearl Street Mall.
- Looking for Parks and Recreation construction project information and updates? Visit www.BoulderParkNews.org.
- In October, Parks and Recreation will debut its first video annual report available for viewing on Municipal Channel 8 and at www.boulderchannel8.com.



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